GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3863
ANSWERED ON:08.04.2003
TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN NER
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of increase in various crimes in the North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the facts and details; thereof;

(c) whether the ULFA militants have recently attacks and set on fire the petrol storage tank in the IOCL`s Assam refinery on 8.3.2003;

(d) if so, the facts and details in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the various Central Government establishments and other places in the North Eastern States particularly in Assam?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI)

(a) to (e): A Statement is annexed.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3863 RAISED BY SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH & RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY REGARDING `TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN NER`.

According to available information the number of violent incidents in the North Eastern States has come down from 1339 in 2001 to 1312 in 2002. The Government have entered into ceasefire agreements with various militant outfits viz. National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Issac-Muivah), National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang) United Peoples Democratic Solidarity and Dima Halong Daogah. Government have also signed a memorandum of Settlement with Bodo Liberation Tigers on the 10th February, 2003.While this has led to reduced number of incidents between Security Forces and militant outfits but inter factional clashes for domination of areas have continued.

2. As per reports received, the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) cadres, targeted oil and gas installations on the night intervening 7-8th March, 2003. The militants attacked the Indian Oil Corporation Refinery at Digboi, Tinsukia district with a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) causing a devastating fire in one of the tanks.In another incident, United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants on 8.3.2003 exploded a wire controlled Improvised Explosive Device (IED) damaging two gas pipelines of IOC at Kathalguri, Dibrugarh district.

3. Government of Assam has been requested to take steps to strengthen the security measures at oil and gas installations and other sensitive places in Assam as also to apprehend the anti-national elements behind these incidents. The Government is committed to provide all assistance to North Eastern States including deployment of Central Para military Forces to meet the challenges posed by the insurgents.